

BOB MASULLO Interview
by Bruce Pierini
Sacramento Ethnic Communities Survey Project
January 11, 1984
Tape # 1

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>
0:00	Introduction
0:40	Personal biographical information. Born New York City on the feast day of St. Anthony. Discussion of St. Anthony as a patron saint.
3:03	Neighborhood in the Little Italy section (Belmont or Arthur Avenue) of the Bronx he lived in until his 3rd birthday. Moved to Park Chester, a multi-ethnic neighborhood in the early 1940s (area did not admit blacks.)
5:20	Early friends were mostly Irish and Jewish.
6:30	Description of homelife. Italian spoken rarely and then usually as a "secret" language between the parents.
7:38	Parent's families' regional Italian origins.
8:20	Italian dialect spoken in the home occasionally.
10:00	Description of parent's roles in the house and home.
10:52	Ethnic self-identity as a child: food, music and language.
14:41	His marriage to a non-Italian. No need for major adjustments.
16:28	Early worklife in various states. His move to Sacramento from Bakersfield, CA.
19:07	Reasons for moving out west.
19:55	His earlier conservatism and his ethnicity.
21:22	First impressions of Sacramento in 1978.
23:00	The Sacramento Bee strike was in full swing when he began his work with the Bee here.
24:00	He was not aware of any Italian community in Sacramento upon arrival.

BOB MASULLO Interview
Index - page 2

25:30 One of his first unplanned visits to an Italian "place" was Corti Brothers.

26:07 His first "Italian" dinner in an Italian-American restaurant in the Mother Lode area.

27:50 Coming to his ethnic self-identification as an Italian-American. Bill Cerutti's influence.

30:00 END Side A

0:00 BLANK

0:50 Negative feelings about being Italian-American. Strongest negative feelings were in Catholic school.

3:12 Predominance of Irish anti-Italian prejudice in school contributed to sense of ethnic shame.

5:40 His feelings as an Italian-American toward his Jewish schoolmates. Resentment at having to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

7:00 Distinctions between Irish and Catholic Catholicism.

8:18 He had only met northern Italians in any numbers while in Sacramento.

8:47 He sees very little differences between northern Italians in California and southern Italians in other areas of the country. They are both subject to the same images, pressures, etc.

10:39 Three of his five best friends are Italian-American.

11:25 His feelings about his children's awareness of their Italian ethnic identity. Further discussion on how knowledge about one's ethnic background prevents the hurt produced by unfeeling prejudice.

17:22 Differences between Italians and Italian-Americans.

18:14 Effects of these differences in the Italian Cultural Society.

BOB MASULLO Interview
Index - page 3

- 23:07 His participation in Festa Italiana, an hour-and-a-half AM radio program on Saturdays in Sacramento. The program features opera, contemporary and traditional Italian songs, regional Italian folk music, news and events in English and Italian.
- 25:36 Festa Italiana began on November 6, 1982.
- 26:40 A non-scientific estimate of audience size is between 6-7,000 people.
- 28:05 Major problems in producing the program is selling advertising.
- 29:08 Rewards of doing the program.
- 30:00 END TAPE #1
- TAPE #2 BOB MASULLO Interview 1-11-84
- 0:00 Describes his own sense of Italian pride.
- 2:22 Describes his work for the Sacramento Bee.
- 3:13 He does a fair number of Italian-related articles.
- 4:17 Italian-American values have hindered him in his corporate life.
- 5:27 Style difference between himself as an Italian-American and that of the American business style.
- 6:40 Future fantasy.
- 6:50 END OF INTERVIEW